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Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment

Request for Public CommentXModification and Revision of the Part 70 General Air Permit Template (0410Pot1)

The LDEQ, Office of Environmental Services, is accepting written comments on the revised template for the Part 70 General Air Operating Permits. The General Air Permit for the qualifying facility can be issued for an initial, modification or renewal for any company, located in the State of Louisiana. The qualifying facility can be located in any Parish of the state.

The “Facility-Specific Requirements” section in the proposed General Air Permit Template (GAPT) contains the universe of regulations that may apply to the facility and associated equipment. The GAPT Briefing Sheet and associated Facility-Specific Conditions comprise the template for all the general air permits to be issued by the Department. On a site specific basis, this template will be modified to describe the facility process and will list only those regulations that apply to the facility requesting a General Air Permit.

The public is invited to comment on the list of regulations and the language of each specific requirement which will be available for use in issuing General Air Permits. According to Section 513 of the Air Quality Regulations as summarized below:

1. The permitting authority may issue a General Air Permit Template (GAPT) intended to cover numerous similar sources or activities. A GAPT shall be issued in accordance with LAC 33:III.519 and, prior to issuance, shall undergo public notice and review by affected states and EPA in accordance with LAC 33:III.531 and 533. Each GAPT shall incorporate terms and conditions applicable to sources which would qualify for a general air permit. Any GAPT shall identify criteria by which sources may qualify for a general air permit, and may provide for applications which deviate from the requirements of LAC 33:III.517.
2. The owner or operator of any source qualifying for a general air permit may apply for authorization to operate under the GAPT. The application must include all information necessary to determine qualification for and to assure compliance with the GAPT. The owner or operator shall publish a public notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the local area where the source is or would be located.
3. The permitting authority may approve an owner or operator's application for authorization to operate under the GAPT without repeating the LDEQ public noticing procedures. Such an approval shall not be a final permit action for purposes of judicial review regarding the terms and conditions of the general air permit.
4. Any source which is issued a general air permit shall be subject to enforcement action for operation without a permit if the source is later determined not to qualify for a general air permit.
5. General air permits shall not be issued for affected sources under the Acid Rain Program established pursuant to title IV of the Clean Air Act.

The proposed GAPT “Facility-Specific Requirements” section contains the universe of regulations that may apply to the facility and associated equipment. If any regulation that applies to any facility or associated emission source is not part of the attached facility-specific conditions, then that facility cannot be granted a general air permit. An exception to this is the case where the specific condition is a state-only requirement.

This excludes federally enforceable specific conditions or limitations. The GAPT Statement of Basis provides additional information regarding how a facility-specific General Air Permit contains only those regulations that apply to the specific facility and its associated emission sources.

Written comments, written requests for a public hearing, or written requests for notification of the final decision regarding this permit action may be submitted to Ms. Soumaya Ghosn at LDEQ, Public Participation Group, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313. Written comments and/or written requests must be received by 12:30 p.m., Monday, November 22, 2004. Written comments will be considered prior to a final permit decision.

If LDEQ finds a significant degree of public interest, a public hearing will be held. LDEQ will send notification of the final permit decision to the applicant and to each person who has submitted written comments or a written request for notification of the final decision.

The proposed General Air Permit Template (GAPT) Statement of Basis, General Permit Briefing Sheet, General Information Sheet, Inventories, Emission Rate Report and Facility Specific Requirements are available for review at the LDEQ, Public Records Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Viewing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Additional copies may be reviewed at the Parish Library Headquarters in each parish of the state of Louisiana and on the LDEQ Public Web Page.

Inquiries or requests for additional information regarding this permit action should be directed to Keith Jordan, LDEQ, Permits Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, phone (225) 219-3004.

Persons wishing to be included on the LDEQ permit public notice mailing list should contact Ms. Soumaya Ghosn in writing at LDEQ, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, phone (225) 219-3276, or by email at maillistrequest@ldeq.org.

Permit public notices can be viewed on the LDEQ Permits public Web page at WWW.deq.state.la.us/news/PubNotice/.

Alternatively, individuals may elect to receive the permit public notices via email by subscribing to the LDEQ permits public notice List Server at http://www.state.la.us/ldbc/listservpage/ldeq_pn_listserv.htm.

All correspondence should specify AI122793, General Title V Permit, and Activity Tracking Number PER20040001.

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Wilbert F. Jordan, Jr.
Assistant Secretary